

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A molding device for producing containers by blow molding or stretch blow molding from preforms made of a heated thermoplastic, said device comprising at least one mold ~~(1) consisting of~~ comprising at least two half-molds [(1a, 1b)], mutually displaceable between an open position in which they are separated from one another and a closed position in which they are tightly pressed against one another by respective cooperating bearing faces [(2a, 2b)], defining a joint plane [(3)], the two half-molds [(1a, 1b)] having at least two respective corresponding edges [(15a, 15b)] of their respective bearing faces [(2a, 2b)] which are radially designed in the form of two mutually overlapping edges with respective opposing mating faces [(16a, 16b)] in the closed position of the mold, locking means [(14)] being functionally associated with said overlapping edges, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said locking means (14) are designed in the following manner:

- one of said overlapping edges [(15a)] located on the inside has a mating face (internal mating face) [(16a)] which terminates in a hook [(17a)] and which has a recess [(18a)] adjacent to the hook;
- the other of said overlapping edges [(15b)] located on the outside has a mating face (external mating face) [(16b)] which terminates in a hook [(17b)] and which has a recess [(18b)] adjacent to the hook;

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

New National Stage Entry Appln. of PCT/FR2004/002839

- said respective hooks [(17a, 17b)] and recesses [(18a, 18b)] of said internal [(15a)] and external [(15b)] overlapping edges extend substantially over the entire height of the mold;

- a gib [(19)] extending substantially over the entire height of the mold is mounted rotatably about a pin [(20)] corresponding to one of its edges in one of said recesses and in contact with the respective hook; and

- drive means are functionally associated with said gib [(19)] for pivoting about its pin [(20)] between two extreme positions,

whereby the gib [(19)] may occupy two functional positions, namely:

- a position inserted into its mounting recess in which the gib [(19)] does not engage the opposing recess of the other overlapping edge and allows a mutual relative displacement of the two half-molds (opening and closing of the mold); and

- a projecting position in which the gib [(19)] is pivoted toward the outside of its mounting recess and - the two half-molds [(1a, 1b)] being in the closed position - engages in the opposing recess of the other overlapping edge such that, when the two half-molds [(1a, 1b)] are subjected to forces separating them from one another (pre-blow molding, blow molding), said gib [(19)] is engaged with the two respective hooks [(17a, 17b)] of the two overlapping edges [(15a, 15b)] and mechanically holds the two half-molds [(1a, 1b)].

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

New National Stage Entry Appln. of PCT/FR2004/002839

2. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in claim 1, in which the mold [(1)] is of the jackknife type with the two half-molds [(1a, 1b)] mutually articulated in rotation on a shaft (8) substantially parallel to one side of the joint plane [(3)], ~~characterized in that~~ and wherein said locking means [(14)] are provided on the side of the mold opposing said shaft [(8)] of the two half-molds.

3. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which each half-mold [(1a, 1b)] comprises a mold carrier [(5a, 5b)] to which is fixed internally a shell [(6a, 6b)] provided with a mold half-impression [(4a, 4b)], the joint plane [(6)] being defined by the two shells [(6a, 6b)] pressed against one another in the closed position of the mold, ~~characterized in that~~ and wherein the locking means [(14)] are supported by the two mold carriers [(5a, 5b)].

4. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the gib is supported by said internal overlapping edge.

5. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the respective hooks [(17a, 17b)] of said two overlapping edges [(15a, 15b)] and the gib [(19)] extend continuously, substantially over the entire height of the mold.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
New National Stage Entry Appln. of PCT/FR2004/002839

6. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the gib ~~[(19)]~~ and at least the hook of the opposing  
overlapping edge extend discontinuously, substantially over the entire height of the mold.

7. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the gib ~~[(19)]~~ is supported in rotation, on or by its pin,  
with radial play.

8. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~  
claim 1, this device being of the carousel type and mobile in rotation, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the drive means functionally associated with the gib ~~[(19)]~~ consist of at least one idler  
roller ~~[(24)]~~ supported, by means of a return mechanism, by one end of a rotating shaft of the  
gib, said roller being capable of cooperating with a fixed guide cam arranged laterally on the  
rotating carousel.

9. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~ wherein the drive means of the gib ~~[(19)]~~ consist of a return spring ~~[(25)]~~ capable of  
returning the gib ~~[(19)]~~ into said inserted position thereof.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

New National Stage Entry Appln. of PCT/FR2004/002839

10. (Currently Amended) The molding device as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the drive means of the gib ~~[(19)]~~ consist of a return spring ~~[(25)]~~ capable of returning the gib ~~[(19)]~~ into said projecting position thereof.